DARK X-MEN

MARVEL

FALL OF X

001

FOXE
SCHARF
MARTIN

PARENTAL ADVISORY

Madelyne Pryor used to dream of a life stolen from her.

Now she is whole again...more or less. Her dreams take her instead to the crooked pathways of *Limbo,* her infernal realm of power.

Limbo reflects its ruler, so it does not surprise Madelyne that this in-between dimension *burns.*

Flames of envy and wrath--always justified--have consumed most of her hard-won existence.

She is surprised, however, when Limbo's sulfurous landscape gives way to chilled air and a scent of *pine and fresh snow* she recognizes from long ago.

Madelyne...

Maddie...

...wake up.

The Limbo Embassy, NYC.
X weeks after The Fall.

Rise and shine, beautiful.

Protesters got started early today.

They never stop.

The humans seem to possess a boundless capacity for *hate.*

Well, it doesn't help that you call them "the humans."

'Least the signs are creative.

Yes, *Alex*-- credit to the bigots for their *inventiveness.*

GET THE HELL OUT OF NYC!

HELL NO!

Let us admire their wit as they enable *genocide.*

You're doing what you can, Maddie.

Despite *Orchis'* best efforts, the U.S. government is still honoring Limbo's sovereignty. That means *sanctuary.* That's not nothing.

Ah, c'mon-- those were Egyptian cotton sheets.

Of course. Safe haven for the monsters, misfits and freaks...

...most of whom came here *months* ago to escape the stifling atmosphere of *Krakoa.*

Not because a maddeningly sophisticated alliance of humans have finally accomplished the eradication they've long sought.

I owe you *nothing,* Azazel.

Watch your temper, Emplate. I'm a vengeful master.

Ugh! Leave us *alone,* Zero.

Maddie... I can't plead with you about this *every* day.

I lost almost everyone I've *ever* cared about the night of the Hellfire Gala.

I'm not going to *lose you* again by picking a fight against the entire world.

We should be focused on *survival.*

Wait-- what *is* that thing?

Something I should have used the moment I heard *Jean's psychic death scream.*

[fall__of]
[_____X]

FALL OF X

DARK X-MEN

[fall__of]
[_____X]

~~Hear How They Scream for Help~~

During the most recent Hellfire Gala, Orchis launched an all-out assault against mutantkind -- targeting not only the X-Men Team candidates, but successfully killing Jean Grey and all human witnesses in order to frame the mutants for the massacre. Threatened with total extinction, Professor Xavier used his powers to take control of every mutant he could to make them walk through the nearest Krakoan gates with the idea of sending them to safety.

For the mutants left on Earth, they are scattered, hunted and on the run, desperate for anyone to come to their aid.

1___[MADELYNE PRYOR]
2___[HAVOK]
3___[ZERO]
4___[EMPLATE]
5___[AZAZEL]
6___[GAMBIT]
7___[ARCHANGEL]
8___[MAGGOTT]
9___[GIMMICK]
10__[ALBERT]

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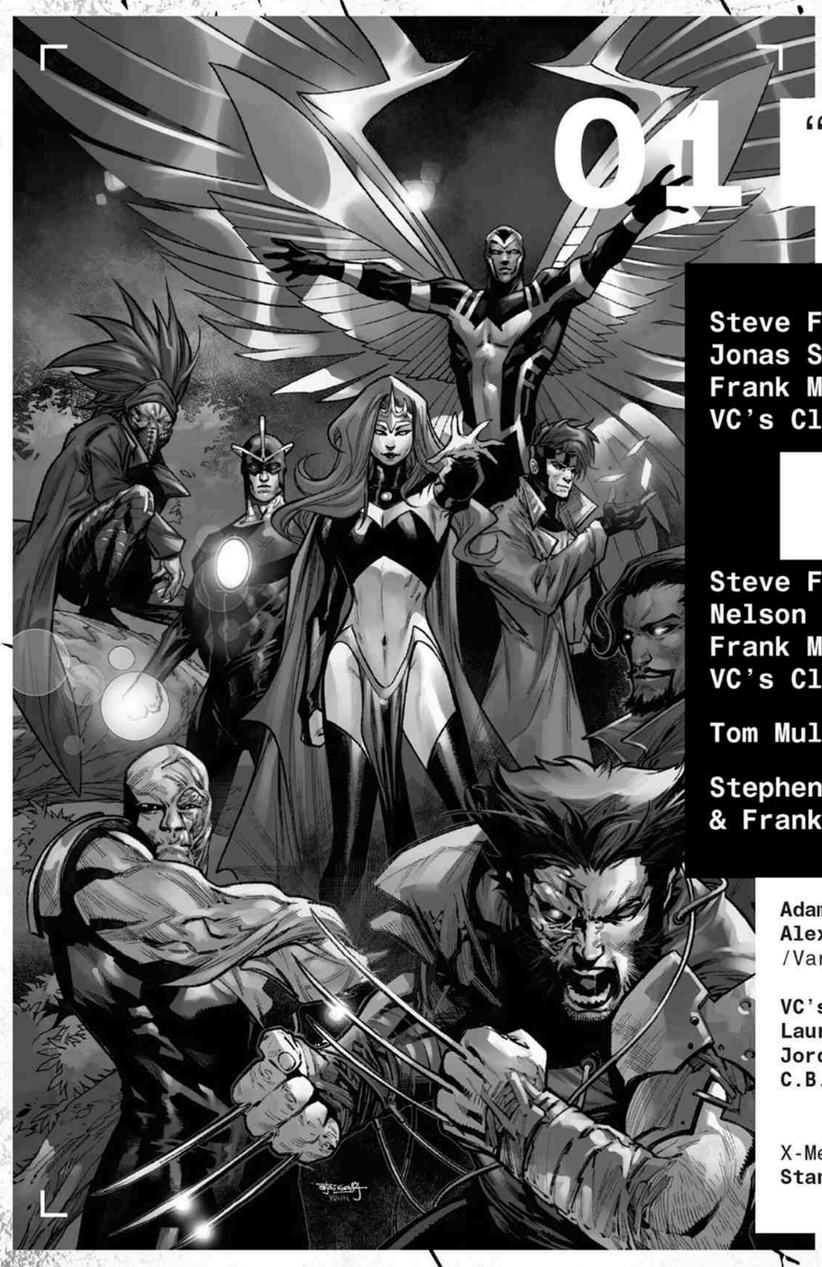

DARK X-MEN

"THERE IS A KINGDOM"

Steve Foxe/Writer
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Frank Martin/Color Artist
VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer

"DO YOU LOVE ME"

Steve Foxe/Writer
Nelson Dániel/Artist
Frank Martin/Color Artist
VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer

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Lauren Amaro/Associate Editor
Jordan D. White/Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

X-Men created by
Stan Lee & **Jack Kirby**

[dark__01]
[x-men_01]

[fall__of]
[_____X]

I wasn't among the living when Xavier's parasitic twin ***annihilated*** Genosha.

I'm told it was ***quite*** traumatic for telepaths though-- sensing so many lives extinguished at once.

Is that a ***demon*** Cerebro?

I call it the ***Mercy*** Crown.

The night Nimrod assaulted the gala, Jean's demise was the ***only*** one I felt.

Do you understand what I'm telling you, Alex?

Whatever Orchis has done, it was ***not*** an extinction-level event. They slaughtered a handful of us at most.

There ***are*** mutants out there, somewhere, and we can't wait for them to come to us.

Jean wouldn't.

Besides...

...you should know by now that I'll wage war against ***anyone*** if I think it's just.

Queens. That evening.

DING-DONG

Oh, hey, Benny!

Come on in, *Buddy's* been expecting you.

Th-thanks, sir.

Yes, thanks, Dad.

Let's-go-Benny-game-is-paused-no-time-to-waste--

After all they've been through, thick as thieves.

Oh! Forgot to ask Buddy what she wants on her pizza.

I just left Gabe's--he found a guy on the dark web selling Genoshan power inhibitors. They're pricy, but if it'll hide me from the sweeps--

You can't hide who you are forever, *Carmen.*

The *X-Men* will fix this, I know they will.

Buddy, please...

...the X-Men are gone.

Y-yes, I'd like to--to *report a mutant--*

MUTA
TIPLI
555-

[BENNY] [GABE] [JAY JAY]

[CotA]

CC just left, on her way @Buddy

Are you escorting?

No, I have basketball -- can't miss again

WTF

I can meet up w/ her?

She IS you rn, Benny. Don't blow it.

YEAH BENNY DON'T BLOW IT

Shut up, Jay Jay

Hush, Jay Jay

Not now, Jay Jay

We need to get this system down better. She can't be out alone. We don't know how good their scanning tech is. If a patrol finds her...

Our parents are eventually going to realize something's up. CC can't hop couches in disguise forever.

WHAT IF THEY'RE READING OUR MINDSSSSS

Do you have a better idea, Gabe???

I found a guy on the dark web selling Genoshan power inhibitors. But they're hella expensive and I have no way of knowing if he's legit.

We're lucky the stuff we've already used hasn't blow up in our faces...

ENOUGH. I'll confirm when she's here SAFELY. Since I'm the only one who cares.

J-just don't hurt my daughter...

Dad?! How could you?

You've known Carmen for *years!*

Back away from the mutant!

It's--it's not personal.

I have to keep *my family* safe.

She's reaching for a weapon--fire!

Ugh!

KA-ZAPP

RAARGHH!

KA-

Where...

...where am I?

Buddy-- is she--?

Your little girlfriend's safe and sound...

"...especially now that her ***pet gene-freak*** is on the way to an Orchis ***re-education camp.***"

TINK
TIN
TINK
WHOOM
What the #$%& was that?
SHUNK
This is convoy #714, requesting immediate reinforc--

Hnnh!

CRACK

Look at dat--*petite fille* don't even need our help.

Hey, I recognize her from somewhere.

I'm ***Gimmick***-- *err, uh,* Carmen Cruz.

My friends and I, *uhh,* kind of ***pretended*** to be X-Men.

Well, Carmen. I'm ***Maggott,*** and that's ***Archangel*** and ***Gambit.***

I know.

BEEP!

Power inhibitor's off. Let's move.

Come on, you bucket of #$%&#@ bolts.

Activate already.

-Bzt-

CLUNK

SNIKT

-Bzt-

Get down!

Tok

ORCHIS RELOCATION CONVOY #714--YOUR REQUESTED REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED.

El-El-
El-sie--

Maybe it was overkill to call in the cavalry.

Honestly wasn't sure if that busted-up ***Wolverine android*** was going to work or not.

One of our ***contractors*** picked it up in Macau, along with a psychotic little-girl 'bot they had to ***scrap***--too feral to reprogram.

Apparently, this one answers to "***Albert.***"

De-De-
De-Ddddddd-
Dde-e--

//QROHIS.AI AUTO-GENERATED INCIDENT REPORT:

////SUBJECTS: Orchis Relocation Convoy #915; Orchis Relocation Convoy #813; Orchis Relocation Convoy #127; Orchis Resupply Shipments #266; #345

:::KNOWN MUTANT OPERATIVES:::

>LeBeau, Remy Étienne [“Gambit”]
>Japheth [“Maggott”]
>Worthington, Warren Kenneth, III [“Archangel”]

////SUMMARY:

>Aforementioned Orchis transportation vehicles intercepted/affected/destroyed by above known mutant operatives

>Six mutant captives freed [see also: FUGITIVE MUTANT CAPTIVES]; current whereabouts unknown

>Orchis operative casualties: ZERO

>Estimated financial damage: 3.4 million USD

////RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION:

~~>Redirect to Agent Pequod~~ [ERROR > see file: Drake, Robert Louis]
>Authorize Stark Sentinel Deployment?

Y/N

Y > VERIFICATION: Approved by Dr. Killian Devo

Notes: Let’s go for overkill here -- make a spectacle out of it. Authorize a Stark Sentinel and a full backup battalion along all convoy routes for quick deployment the next time they strike. Three mutants shouldn’t cost us this much in damages. Squash them underfoot.

What's the play, Gambit?

Protect de girl, dodge de claws and take as many down wit' us as we can.

Yeah, good luck with tha--

BAMF

Huh?

BAMF

BAMF

BAM

Don't worry, child...

Ahhhhh!

BAMF

...the X-MEN are here.

SPLAT

Are they...on our side?

Dat's complicated, chère.

Human marrow... tasteless and foul.

But so slippery!

Runnin' wit' a rough crew, Havok.

That almost sounds like a compliment coming from you, LeBeau.

He's not breathing!

Warren's got a healing factor-- just keep an eye out for that killer robot circling back!

No mercy, my X-Men.

Yum yum!

Arrrgrghh!

Seriously?

Maddie, we talked about this-- no unnecessary killing!

-Bzt-

SHINK

ALEX!

Ahhh!

Oh god, no!

KRA

KRA

You stupid, *stupid* man.

POP

SNAP

CRACK

Our grand debut and you've *ruined* it.

Glurk

Azazel. We've rescued these poor, vulnerable mutants.

Take us home.

If you insist...though I'm having a lovely time, personally.

Can I keep this?

I've always wanted a Wolverine of my own.

'Dis an open invite, Red?

Call me that again, and you'll wish I left you for the Sentinels.

Wait, we can't leave Warren--

BAM

Hours later.

An undisclosed Orchis black site.

I, uhh, have the mutant for you.

Yes, we can see that.

I'd leave hastily if I were you...

...we get *awfully excited* about new toys.

Although I believe *our guest* might have her eye on this one.

Can the one true *Goblin Queen* finally come out and play?

KRAKOA for all

MUTANTS

[fall_of]
[_____X]

FOLLOW THE FALL:

ALPHA FLIGHT #1:

DARK X-MEN #1:

GHOST RIDER #17:

UNCANNY AVENGERS #1:

X-MEN RED #14:

DEADPOOL #10:

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #9:

JEAN GREY #1:

REALM OF X #1:

X-FORCE #43:

MS. MARVEL: NEW MUTANT #1:

WOLVERINE #26:

[dark__01]
[x-men_01]

MONDAY.

The Limbo Embassy. One week after its founding.

I can't thank you enough for helping us iron out the treaty details, Jen.

Krakoa's ambassadors did the heavy lifting.

I'm just glad I could keep your legal counsel from ***chewing up*** the state law team.

Literally.

We're working on the whole "man-eating demon" thing.

She ***really*** needs to show up for these political meetings, Alex. She's ***Limbo's*** head of state now.

I get it, I do. Maddie's just been so ***busy*** since taking over--

FWOOSH

My ***ears were burning.***

Apologies for my absence, Jennifer.

Borghus the Wretched staged a coup, and I had to... ***negotiate.***

Maddie, I thought we talked about doing things less violently--

Now, let's catch up over some infernal refreshments, shall we?

PLOP

Alex Summers is a man in search of ***purpose.***

TUESDAY.

It should come as no surprise that he who christened himself ***Havok*** has struggled to find stability.

So, allowing his heart to lead the way, Alex has chosen, at any cost...to ***let love in.***

I'm genuinely very sorry about the sulfur smell, Luke--*err,* Mr. Mayor. Maybe there's some ***spell*** that--

Vissssitor... Goblin Prince.

I told you not to call me--no, not you, Mr. Mayor--!

Great, he hung up. Glad we're making friends.

I see the queen's *concubinus* greets us in her stead.

What are you doing here...

...Azazel?

Some time ago, my ***blue bastard*** saw to it that I was barred from entering any of the illustrious ***Hell realms*** that burn at the edges of this reality.

As some of those dimensions are wont to ***change hands*** fairly often, I take it upon myself to petition ***new regimes*** for... clemency.

Island paradise may suit many of my mutant brethren, like pitiable ***Emplate*** here, but I long for much, ***much*** warmer climes.

Hrrm.

Listen, Maddie and I have talked about establishing some sort of formal application process, but--

FWOOSH

The dread empress herself arrives!

I'm inclined to be sympathetic to Krakoa's unfavored, first and last of the Neyaphem. But what can you ***offer me*** in return?

You've clearly studied your ***forbidden tomes,*** my petrifying beauty.

So you already know few who walk this land share my mastery over ***souls.***

And the vampire?

A choice example. The ***St. Croix family*** has owed me a great debt for many years. I've opted to collect.

Don't worry about his appetites though--I let him ***nibble.***

Let's continue this discussion inside. I suspect you'll feel right at home.

Souls? I don't know about--

A formal application process is a ***lovely*** idea, Alex. Why don't you get to work on one and let me handle more nuanced business?

I have an intuition...

WEDNESDAY.

"...that the floodgates are about to burst."

All right. Let's start with *why* you're seeking amnesty through Limbo.

Zero.

Krakoa is stifling my creativity.

We've made death our @#%&, and *still*, the Quiet Council recoils at my attempts to chart new horizons of the flesh!

Phantazia.

My motivations are my own.

Solarr.

I don't trust myself out there anymore... Need to be somewhere that *burns*.

Fatale.

Long time no see, Alex.

Always knew you had a dark side.

The Fenris Twins.

No.

Animax.

My beasts need new challengers!

Todd from Secaucus.

I hate school, and my parents don't get me, like, at all.

Yeah...I'm going to give you my therapist's number.

Mastermind and Lady Mastermind.

Oh, we don't want to move *here*. Krakoa's a blast.

We just have brunch plans with Mads. She around?

Infectia.

Please do *not* tell the X-Men, but I *might* have turned a few...

...dozen...

...humans into Anti-Bodies.

Again.

Okay, no offense, pal, but it's been a long day and you're the last name on the list.

Aren't you usually Spider-Man's problem?

Kangaroo.

That's a *rude* way to put it.

Besides, word on the street is...

"...Limbo's a great place to hide away from the Web-Head."

I'd like to speak with you, Benjamin.

You don't get to use that name, Pryor.

You turned your back on me once you got what *you* wanted from *your* template.

Aren't you lucky that Jean Grey's just *so* giving? But instead of convincing ***Spider-Man*** to do the same, you left a ***gaping void*** where my memories should be.

So call me ***Chasm.***

Have it your way.

But don't forget--it's by my ***mercy*** that you're locked away in relative comfort here.

That ***can*** change.

THURSDAY.

Alex Summers is a man in search of purpose...

...purpose that feels frustratingly *out of reach.*

Watch it, #$%&!

RINGGGG-RINGGG

Luke? Sorry again about the other day, I--

SCREEEEECH

Oh, for the love of--

No, *not* you. Hold on a second.

Maddie, can you hear me?

There's some sort of commotion out front. I think I see Bishop, Firestar and some ***trainee kids*** from the island?*

Hmm...

*For the other side of this story, pick up **Marvel's Voices: Pride (2023)**, available now!

FRIDAY.

Krakoa is always open to you, Alex. If things don't work out, maybe we could even talk about you rejoining--

Scott.

Guys, seriously. I appreciate the concern.

But I'm *exactly* where I'm supposed to be. Maddie *needs* me.

I mean, even for a woman as impressive as she is...

"...running an entire *realm* is a team effort, you know? She couldn't do this without me."

I'm happy, really.

This feels *right.*

SATURDAY.

Ahh... this feels *way overdue.*

I needed this.

What a week, right, little guy?

Who knew that moving into a *Hell castle full of demons and evil jerks* would be so stressful?

Sklort.

FWOOSH

Maddie! Are you okay?

Oh please, Alex--it's not *my* blood.

You *promised* you'd consider toning back the kill--

Shh-shh-shh.

All I need from you in this moment is comforting silence.

Yeah, right, of course.

I just... feel like we've barely seen each other--

Comforting. *Silence.*

But I understand. You are part of my kingdom and deserve my attention too.

Let's do something... *romantic* tomorrow. Just the two of us.

SUNDAY.

This is "romantic," Maddie?

Borghus the Wretched refuses to bend to my will, Alex. And he has three whole arms left.

Rip them off for me, won't you?

Show me how much you love me.

Alex Summers is a man in search of purpose...

Prove it to me.

...and, God help him...*Madelyne Pryor* knows it.

5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH